

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
TAKESHI IKEDA) : Examiner: T. Henn
Application No.: 10/632,958) : Group Art Unit: 2622
Filed: August 4, 2003) :
For: IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS)
HAVING IRIS MEMBER AND) :
FILTER UNITS) January 10, 2007

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed December 13, 2006.

The Examiner has stated that the inventions of Group I (Claims 1-6 and 12-15) and Group II (Claims 7-11 and 16-18) are patentably distinct from each other. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the two groups of claims are closely related and that a proper search of any of the claims of one group would likely include a search of the claims of the other group. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously and that a duplicative search with possibly inconsistent results may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained. Therefore, in the interest of economy, both for the Office and Applicant, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143,
Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group I, namely Claims 1-6 and 12-15.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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